United Water SUEZ

City of North Adams
351 Pattison Road, North Adams, MA 01247

CCR Important Information!

This report contains important information about your drinking water.

United Water SUEZ

Dear Customer

Your water system is operated as a partnership between United Water and the City of North Adams. Through this partnership, the City retains ownership of all the water facilities and sets the rates. United Water, as contract operator, provides the day-to-day management of the water system. These organizations work together to provide you with water that meets—and often surpasses— all the health and safety standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP).

We regularly test water samples to be sure that your water meets the safety standards. All the test results are on file with the MA DEP, the agency that monitors and regulates drinking water quality in our state. The EPA and the MA DEP establish these regulations. They also require water suppliers to issue a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) on an annual basis. This CCR contains important information about your drinking water. Please read it carefully and feel free to call us at 413.664.6690 if you have any questions about your water or your water service. You can also call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791 with water-related questions. If you have specific questions about your water as it relates to your personal health, we suggest that you contact your health care provider.

Consumer Confidence Report 2007 *(Issued June 2008)*

PWSID # 1209000

About Your Water Supply

North Adams residents receive water from both surface water and ground water sources. Surface water sources include Mount Williams Reservoir and Notch Reservoir. Our ground water source is the Greylock well. The Broad Brook facility was "off-line" during 2007, and Greylock well was "on-line" for only 60 days due to drought conditions.

Your water is treated at the North Adams Water Treatment Facility (WTF) which treats raw surface water from two sources. The Notch Reservoir, on Reservoir Road, has a storage capacity of approximately 91 million gallons, a watershed area of approximately 2.5 square miles and is connected to Mount Williams Reservoir via a concrete overflow conduit. The Mount Williams Reservoir, on Pattison Road, has a storage capacity of approximately 200 million gallons and a watershed area of 1.75 square miles.

The MA DEP source ID numbers for our facilities are: Greylock Well (#1209000-01G), Notch Reservoir (#1209000-01S), Broad Brook (#1209000-02S) and Mount Williams Reservoir (#1209000-04S).

Source Water Assessment and Protection Program

In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act, creating the Source Water Assessment and Protection Program. Each state is required to identify and evaluate all sources of drinking water, assess the susceptibility of these sources to contamination and promote the protection of them.

The MA DEP has completed a Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) report for the North Adams Water Department. A susceptibility ranking of 'high" was assigned to the North Adams system using the information collected during the assessment by the DEP. If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is, or will be, consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. The complete SWAP report is available from the City by contacting Leo Senecal at 413.662.3047 or from the MA DEP's Springfield Regional Office by contacting Catherine V. Skiba at 413.755.2119.

Lead Information

Test results show that North Adams was in compliance for lead in drinking water. However, infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. You can also flush your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using tap water to reduce possible lead content. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.

Additional Information

If you would like more detailed information about your water, please contact Tim Lescarbeau, project manager, United Water, at 413.664.6690 or Leo Senecal, special projects coordinator, City of North Adams, at 413.662.3047. Residents may also inquire about water system issues by attending the North Adams City Council. Meetings are held at City Hall on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at 413.662.3015.

Definitions:

Action Level (AL)
The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)
The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)
The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)
The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

NA
Not applicable.

NTU
Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

pCi/L
Picocuries per liter. Measure of radioactivity.

ppb
One part substance per billion parts water or micrograms per liter.

ppm
One part substance per million parts water or milligrams per liter.

Treatment Technique (TT)
A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in the water.

Turbidity
A measure of the cloudiness of water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

>
This means "greater than."

<
This means "less than."

90th Percentile
Nine out of every ten homes sampled were below this level.

Drinking Water Quality Table

This water quality table shows how your drinking water compared to the standards set by the USEPA and the MADEP in 2007. Please note that yearly testing on all substances is not required. Therefore, for such substances, we have indicated the most recent year of required testing.

Primary Standards (Directly related to the safety of drinking water) – We tested for many substances in the water and detected only those indicated in the Drinking Water Quality Table. Some of the information is technical in nature so we have provided you with definitions to help you better understand the information contained in this report.

Inorganic Chemicals	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result*	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
Nitrate as nitrogen ppm (plant)	10	10	0.28	ND - 0.28	No	Erosion of natural deposits and fertilizer usage

	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile	Samples >AL	Violation	Likely Source
Lead ppb (2007)	0	15	5	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper ppm (2007)	1.3	1.3	0.2	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Microbiologicals	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result**	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
Turbidity NTU (plant) (Average result 0.13 NTU North Adams was 99.9% - 100% <0.3 NTU)	NA	TT=1NTU TT=95% <0.3NTU	0.26	0.05 - 0.26	No	Soil runoff

Radionuclides	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result*	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
Gross alpha pCi/L (2003)	0	15	1.10	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposit
Combined radium (226/228) pCi/L (2003)	0	5	0.10	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposit

*Highest results are based upon the highest single sample.
**Highest results are based upon the highest monthly results.

Disfection Byproducts	MCLG	MCL	Average Result	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
THMs ppb running annual av. (THMs: bromoform, bromodichloromethane, chlorodibromomethane, chloroform)	NA	80	27.9	18.3 - 41.4	No	Disinfection by-product
HAA5 ppb running annual av. (THMs5: dibromoacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, monochloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid)	NA	60	12.9	7.0 - 19.3	No	Disinfection by-product
Total Organic Carbon	NA	TT	1.28	ND - 5.4	No	Soil runoff

Secondary Standards - Related to the aesthetic quality of drinking water. We detected the following in this category.

Substance	Guideline	Average Result	Highest Result*	Range of Results	Likely Source
Color CU	10	0	6	0 - 6	Naturally occurring
Corrosivity	Non-corrosive	Non-corrosive	Non-corrosive	Non-corrosive	Naturally occurring
pH	6.5 - 8.5	7.1	7.5	6.8 - 7.5	Naturally occurring
Sodium ppm (plant)	50	6	NA	0 - 6	Naturally occurring

*Highest results are based upon the highest single sample.

Secondary standards are non-mandatory guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminates on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During August 2007, we did not complete all monitoring for total coliform bacteria and therefor cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water that time.

Contaminate	Required Sampling Frequency	Number of Samples Taken	When Samples Were Taken
Total coliform	30 samples per month	29	Aug. 2007

The correct number of samples are being taken and will continue to be taken by North Adams. For more information, please see the contact names and numbers in the Additional Information section of this report.

Health Note

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infections by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.

Substances Expected in Drinking Water

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and the MA DEP prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. So what's the bottom line? Both bottled and tap water meet the federal standards, however, your tap water is substantially less expensive.

Cross Connection Control Program

A cross connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment containing chemicals or water of questionable quality.

Some examples of where cross connections may occur are at boilers, air conditioners, fire sprinkling systems, and irrigation systems. Backflow to the drinking water line must be prevented by means of a backflow prevention device. If you have any such equipment and are not sure if you need a device, please contact the Water Department at 413.662.3156 for a free inspection.

Water Conservation

We encourage our customers to use water wisely – even when supplies are abundant. If you don't conserve, you're pouring water – and money – down the drain. The average American can drink, shower and flush between 40 and 130 gallons of water every day. You can reduce your water consumption by up to 25 percent by taking just a few simple steps. So tighten those taps; cease those sprinkles; discontinue those drips and use water wisely!